

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3612

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to expand, improve, support, and promote primary and secondary education for displaced children, including girls, from areas designated by the Department of State as areas of conflict.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2017

Mr. PAYNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to expand, improve, support, and promote primary and secondary education for displaced children, including girls, from areas designated by the Department of State as areas of conflict.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Prioritizing Education  
5 in Conflict Zones Act of 2017”.

**1 SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PRIMARY AND SEC-**

**2                   ONDARY EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED CHIL-**

**3                   DREN FROM AREAS OF CONFLICT.**

4 The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended by  
5 inserting after section 105 (22 U.S.C. 2151c) the fol-  
6 lowing new section:

**7 "SEC. 105A. ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PRIMARY AND SEC-  
8 ONDARY EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED CHIL-  
9 DREN FROM AREAS OF CONFLICT.**

10        "(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State and  
11 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
12 national Development, acting through the Director of Ref-  
13 ugee Educational Assistance designated pursuant to sub-  
14 section (c), is authorized to provide long-term assistance  
15 to expand, improve, support, and promote primary and  
16 secondary education for displaced children from areas of  
17 conflict.

18        "(b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Assistance provided  
19 under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
20 ticable, be used to—

21               “(1) build the capacity for private sector and  
22               civil society organizations with a stated purpose of  
23               educating children, including girls, in the areas of—  
24               “(A) development and strengthening of  
25               primary and secondary curricula;

1               “(B) coordination with educational facil-  
2               ties of host countries; and

3               “(C) technical capacities and expertise, in-  
4               cluding strategies for cost-effective procurement  
5               of science and technology equipment;

6               “(2) establish, expand, and promote linkages  
7               and partnerships between host countries’ educational  
8               facilities, private sector and civil organizations, and  
9               United States colleges and universities education  
10              programs; and

11              “(3) assist with efforts to educate women and  
12              girls.

13              “(c) DIRECTOR OF REFUGEE EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-  
14              ANCE.—

15              “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days  
16              after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-  
17              ministrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
18              national Development shall designate a Director of  
19              Refugee Educational Assistance, who shall report di-  
20              rectly to the Administrator, and who shall carry out  
21              the responsibilities described in paragraph (2).

22              “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities  
23              referred to in paragraph (1) include—

24              “(A) ongoing consultations with and the  
25              provision of technical advice to host country

1           governments, particularly ministries of education,  
2           regional organizations, and public tertiary and related educational institutions, and  
3           education and educators' organizations with respect to carrying out the activities described in  
4           subsection (b);

7           “(B) coordination and administration of long-term assistance authorized under subsection (a) in support of the activities described  
8           in subsection (b); and

11          “(C) coordinating with other bureaus within the United States Agency for International Development, with other relevant United States Government agencies, with the United States and international private sectors, with the primary and secondary education community and relevant research organizations in the United States and host countries, and with other bilateral and multilateral development partners to maximize the gains and impact of activities carried out under subsection (b)(1).

22          “(d) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—The Director of Refugee Educational Assistance shall seek, to the extent practicable, to use any funding appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the duties, goals, and functions

1 described in this section to leverage equal or greater  
2 sources of private sector funding for such purposes, and  
3 shall undertake and prioritize efforts to identify such  
4 sources of private sector funding.

5       “(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘edu-  
6 cation’ means primary and secondary academic training.

7       “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
8 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-  
9 priated \$970,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 and such sums  
10 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2019 through  
11 2028.”.

